

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00918 270005Z
ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 918

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,UNSC, XF
SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE
EAST -- CONSENSUS STATEMENT

REF: USUN 916

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE LEONARD CONVEYED US OBJECTIONS TO NON-ALIGNED DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT TO AMB MEGUID AT 3:00 P.M. ON MARCH 26. MEGUID SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO CAIRO AND UNDERLINED THAT HE IS AN INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR. MEGUID DWELLED CONSIDERABLY ON PUBLIC INTERPRETATION AS ISRAELI VICTORY IF EGYPT WITHDREW "HOMELAND" OR OTHER ELEMENT IN DRAFT. END SUMMARY.

2. AMB LEONARD REVIEWED CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS OF THIS DEBATE IN WHICH EGYPT AND US APPEARED TO BE WORKING TOGETHER, UNTIL ADVENT OF DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT. LEONARD POINTED OUT WE HAD AGREED TO DEBATE IN MARCH ON ASSURANCE FROM EGYPT THAT THEY WOULD LEND THEIR EFFORTS TO A SIMPLE, NON-SUBSTANTIVE CONSENSUS OUTCOME. NOW WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH DRAFT CONSENSUS WHICH CLEARLY CONTAINS ELEMENTS WHICH ARE SUBSTANTIVE AND WHICH SHOULD BEST BE REFERRED TO PROPER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00918 270005Z

SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS BETWEEN OUR TWO HEADS OF STATE OR AT RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE. THESE SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS DO NOT BELONG IN A PROCEDURAL-TYPE CONSENSUS AND ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US. USG WOULD IF NECESSARY USE VETO TO PREVENT SUCH OUTCOME. IT IS NOW UP TO EGYPT TO WORK OUT SOLUTION. INTRODUCTION OF SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS IN DRAFT STATEMENT WAS OUTSIDE OF OUR MUTUAL

UNDERSTANDING; CLEARLY EGYPT HAS RESPONSIBILITY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S TRIP NEXT WEEK TO WASHINGTON, TO WORK TOWARD AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURAL-TYPE CONSENSUS STATEMENT.

3. AMB MEGUID REPLIED BY FIRST RECOUNTING THAT LETTER FROM SC PRES TO SYG, AS PROPOSED TO HIM BY FRG PERMREP, WAS NOT ACEQUATE RESPONSE TO SYG'S REPORT; SITUATION IS TOO SERIOUS TO BE PUT ASIDE BY A LETTER. PERHAPS EGYPT AND US WERE NOT ON SAME WAVE LENGTH AT THIS POINT, AND MOREOVER GA RES 31/62 CALLS FOR SC MEETING. MEGUID ACKNOWLEDGED THAT EGYPT TOO DESIRED TO RESERVE MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE FOR US AND EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTS.

4. TURNING TO DRAFT STATEMENT, MEGUID DESCRIBED EFFORTS AT ARAB GROUP MEETING MARCH 25 OF EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN TO PERSUADE PLO OBSERVER TO ACCEPT WORD "HOMELAND" INSTEAD OF "STATE" IN PARA 2. MEGUID DEPICTED DRAFT STATEMENT AS HAVING ENDORSEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED, WITH PAKISTAN PERMREP AKHUND TAKING THE LEADING ROLE. MEGUID THEN REMARKED THAT CAIRO INSERTED "HOMELAND" PHRASE SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER HAD REFERRED TO "HOME- LAND" IN CLINTON, MASS. REMARKS. SIMILARLY TEXT OF PARA 3 IN DRAFT MERELY REFLECTED WHAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AGREED TO IN SC CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 11, 1976. MEGUID AT SOME LENGTH EXPLAINED THAT IF EGYPT WERE TO WITHDRAW "HOMELAND" FROM DRAFT, ARAB PUBLIC WOULD VIEW THIS AS A VICTORY FOR ISRAEL.

5. LEONARD REPLIED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS AT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00918 270005Z

CLINTON, MASS. WERE NOT APPROPRIATE IN THE INSTANCE OF A CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON SYG WALDHEIM'S REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. THERE WAS IMPORTANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN U.S. OFFICIAL PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND LANGUAGE WHICH WAS OF APPROPRIATE CHARACTER FOR DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS. THE SC WAS DISCUSSING AT THE MOMENT ONLY THE SYG'S REPORT AND THE PROCESS OF PEACE, NOT THE SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

6. MEGUID SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FULLY, AND THAT HE WAS INSTRUCTED FROM CAIRO. HE REFERRED TO HIS EARLIER UNDER- STANDING WITH AMB YOUNG WHEN BOTH AGREED TO WORK TOWARD A SIMPLE NON-SUBSTANTIVE CONSENSUS, BUT CAIRO DECIDED OTHERWISE. AFTER FURTHER UNDERSCORIIG THAT THE ARAB SIDE VIEWED "HOMELAND" AS A BREAKTHROUGH, MEGUID CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT HE WOULD REPORT US POSITION TO CAIRO IMMEDIATELY. LEONARD ADDED THAT US WOULD INSIST ON THE SAME THREE ELEMENTS IN A DRAFT STATEMENT, AS DISCUSSED EARLIER IN CAIRO AND HERE.

IT WOULD NOT TOUCH ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS. WE WOULD
BE PREPARING A DRAFT TEXT WHICH WE COULD DISTRIBUTE
TO MEGUID AND TO THE PAKISTAN PERMREP ON MONDAY MORNING.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THERE IS NO QUESTION OUR MESSAGE
WAS CLEARLY RECEIVED BY MEGUID, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC
EGYPTIANS WILL WITHDRAW THEIR DRAFT OR ALTER IT
SUFFICIENTLY TO BE ACCEPTABLE. MORE LIKELY RESPONSE MAY
BE THAT SEVERAL WORD CHANGES WILL BE PUT FORWARD WHILE
BODY OF DRAFT REMAINS UNCHANGED IN ESSENCE. TACTICAL
QUESTION OF WHETHER TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF RECESSING
DEBATE UNTIL APRIL OR TO ATTEMPT TO PURSUE DRAFT CONSENSUS
WILL DEPEND ON RESPONSE FROM CAIRO. WESTERNERS ON SC
WILL GENERALLY SUPPORT OUR POSITION ON DRAFT STATEMENT
OR ON RECESSING DEBATE. AFRICANS DESPITE THEIR OWN INTEREST
IN DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA MAY BE HESITANT TO RALLY FOR RECESS
OF EGYPTIAN-SPONSORED DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST REPORT; NON-
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PAGE 04 USUN N 00918 270005Z

ALIGNED WILL OF COURSE FOLLOW EGYPT ON THIS.
YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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